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HARRIS LAWRENCE T
77 MONTEVIDEO 8698

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ACTION APA-14

INFO COT-21 FUR-12 ISO-20 HA-25 SCS-26 CA-21 L-23
JUSF-22 SHM-25 DEAF-22 IC-17 CIAE-22 INE-27
NSAF-27 PM-25 NSC-25 SP-22 SS-15 TRSF-22 E-21
/225 W

-----253876 152315Z /63

EXCISE

R 151204Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8428
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 8698
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, UY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY J Han DATE 5/
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS VISIT OF ROBERT GOLDMAN GROUP
REF: A. STATE 289213, B. STATE 284310
SUMMARY. IN MEETINGS WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS SINCE ARRIVAL
DECEMBER 12, GOLDMAN HAS CLARIFIED SPONSORSHIP OF HIS VISIT-
ING THREE-MAN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP AND OUTLINED ITS OBJECTIVES.
GIVEN LACK OF ANY PRIOR PLANNING AND POLITICAL REALITIES CON-
FRONTING VISITING HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS HERE, GOLDMAN GROUP
IS NOT HAVING MUCH SUCCESS EITHER IN GETTING OTHER EMBASSIES
TO OFFER ANY REAL ASSISTANCE OR IN MAKING CONTACT WITH GOV. WE
ARE MAINTAINING DAILY CONTACT WITH GROUP AND BEING AS HELP-
FUL AS WE CAN. END SUMMARY.

1. ROBERT GOLDMAN ARRIVED MONTEVIDEO EVENING DECEMBER 12
ACCOMPANIED BY JEAN LOUIS WEIL OF FRENCH CATHOLIC JURISTS AND
DR. MARTINEZ BUCKMAN SOCIALIST SENATOR OF SPAIN.

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2. GOLDMAN MET WITH DOM AND POLOFF YOULE AT EMBASSY MORNING OF
DECEMBER 13 SINCE AMBASSADOR WAS FULLY OCCUPIED WITH
MC AULIFFE VISIT. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS GOLDMAN REVEALED THAT
GROUP IS FUNDED BY PARIS-BASED INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT OF
CATHOLIC JURISTS AND SPONSORED BY NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES.
HE SAID SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF VISIT ARE TO PRESS GOV MILITARY
AND CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES (A) TO RELEASE ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS
ABOUT TEN POLITICAL PRISONERS WHO ARE SERIOUSLY OR TERMINALLY
ILL; (B) TO GRANT AMNESTY TO GENERAL SEREGNI AND TWO DAUGHTERS
OF ASSASSINATED SENATOR MICHELINI AMONG OTHERS; AND (C) TO
CLARIFY SITUATION OF "62" URUGUAYANS ALLEGEDLY KIDNAPPED IN
ARGENTINA AND RETURNED TO URUGUAY. GOLDMAN INDICATED GROUP
WOULD ALSO SEEK TO STIMULATE URUGUAYAN CATHOLIC CHURCH TO BECOME
MORE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN HUMAN RIGHTS CASES, CONVEYING
PROMISE OF SUPPORT OF U.S. NATIONAL CATHOLIC CONFERENCE, IE.
IT DID. GROUP ALSO PLANNED TO MEET WITH POLITICAL FOLLOWERS

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OF EXILED FORMER BLANCO PARTY SENATOR AND PRESIDENTIAL
CANDIDATE WILSON FERREIRA.

3. AFTER GOLDMAN DESCRIBED HIS GROUP'S PROPOSED OBJECTIVES
IN URUGUAY, THE DCM ASKED HOW THE GROUP PROPOSED TO ACHIEVE
THEY, NOTING THAT THE GROUP HAD NO DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE GOU
WHICH WAS PARTICULARLY HOSTILE TOWARDS VISITS OR INVESTIGATIONS
BY ANY INTERNATIONAL GROUP OR ORGANIZATION. GOLDMAN REPLIED THAT
THE GROUP EXPECTED THE EMBASSY TO ARRANGE ITS APPOINTMENTS
WITH GOU OFFICIALS AND THAT THE EMBASSY'S FAILURE TO FURNISH
SUCH "COOPERATION" WOULD BE MADE KNOWN THE NEXT DAY TO
"JACK ANDERSON, VARIOUS CONGRESSMEN, WOLA, THE COUNCIL OF
CHURCHES..." AT THIS POINT THE DCM CUT OFF GOLDMAN,
REJECTING IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS HIS THREAT TO THE EMBASSY.
GOLDMAN PLEADED AT LENGTH THAT HE DID NOT MEAN TO THREATEN,
BUT MERELY TO POINT OUT THE CONSEQUENCES THAT MIGHT RESULT,

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AND HIS OWN DISASSOCIATION FROM THEM. THE DCM CONTINUED THAT
IT WAS NOT A QUESTION OF WHETHER THE EMBASSY WISHED TO HELP
THE GROUP, BUT RATHER WHETHER WAS ANY FEASIBLE WAY THE GROUP
COULD BE HELPED GIVEN THE POLITICAL REALITIES IN URUGUAY AND
THE LACK OF ANY PRIOR PLANNING FOR THE GROUP'S VISIT. HE SAID
THE AMBASSADOR WOULD WANT TO MEET WITH GOLDMAN.

4. IN DEPARTING, GOLDMAN SAID THE GROUP WOULD TRY TO CONTACT
THE FRENCH AND BRITISH EMBASSIES TO SEEK THEIR ASSISTANCE.
HE SAID DR. MARTINEZ HAD ALREADY MET THE EVENING OF
DECEMBER 11 WITH THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR, WHO TOLD MARTINEZ
THAT HE HAD CABLED MADRID FOR INSTRUCTIONS BUT HAD
RECEIVED NO REPLY. THE SPANIARD ADDED THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF
INSTRUCTIONS, HE HAD NOT INTENTION OF ASSISTING THE GROUP
UNLESS THE AMERICAN EMBASSY TOOK THE LEAD.

5. ON THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 14, POLOFF AGAIN MET WITH GOLDMAN,
MARTINEZ, AND WEIL. DISCUSSION WAS LARGELY BETWEEN THE
THREE VISITORS AND FOCUSED PRINCIPALLY ON A WEIGHING OF THE
LIMITED ALTERNATIVES OPEN TO THEM TO SALVAGE SOMETHING FROM
THEIR ONE-WEEK VISIT. THE VISITORS STATED THAT THEY HAVE GREATLY
LOWERED THEIR SIGHTS AND NOW ARE SEEKING ONLY TO: (A) CALL ON
JUSTICE MINISTER BAYARDO TO INFORM HIM OF THEIR PRESENCE AND
THE CONCERNS WHICH BROUGHT THEM TO URUGUAY; (B) CALL ON
ARCHBISHOP PARTELLI; AND (C) MAKE CONTACT WITH A FEW PERSONS
OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT, IF THIS CAN BE DONE WITHOUT
ENDANGERING THE INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED. THE VISITORS DEPARTED,
WITH THE INTENTION OF AGAIN VISITING THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR
TO ASK THAT HE REQUEST THE APPOINTMENT WITH BAYARDO.

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7. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN DAILY CONTACT WITH THE
GROUP AND TO BE AS HELPFUL AS WE CAN.

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